

ABSTRACT

Cross-linked polyvinyl alcohol fibers prepared from a water-soluble polyvinyl alcohol, which satisfy the following requirements:

(1) a water absorption in water at 30°C ranging from 10 to 100 times the weight of the fibers;

(2) a fiber diameter in water at 30°C as a result of absorbing water ranging from 2 to 10 times the diameter of the fibers not having absorbed water; and

(3) a melting point ranging from 160 to 220°C, and a heat of fusion ranging from 40 to 100 J/g.